

**Reverend Peter Kostakos**

A: -- she was in charge of some fashion show.

Q: And nobody wants to know when they were born.

A: Yeah. She was born 1924. Now, Peter was in '25, and my mother baptized him. Tony in '26, and Julia in '30, 1930. So, now they're (inaudible) --

M: Tell us about High Street.

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

M: -- called us kids last week, he said, "You kids --"

A: I used to go to high school in 1936.

Q: Father Peter, High Street. How nice was High Street in those years? Describe High Street.

A: Across the street from here -- there was no art school.

Q: OK. Arts high school.

A: When we were coming to Greek School, there was no art school there. That was a vacant lot, and Father used to chase the kids on that lot.

Q: Across the street.

A: Across the street, there was a vacant lot there. Next to it, vacant lot, there was an art store, they used to sell art supplies. Brushes and paints and all of that. The

school was founded back in 1930, '31, that school. So that was built then. So it was a vacant lot there. So an art teacher from Warren street School was teaching in there, Miss Howell. Art teacher. Now, you mentioned Robert Treat.

M: Correct, yeah.

A: Did you remember Ryan, Columbia Ryan?

M: No, Father. I don't remember.

A: She was in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

M: I remember Mrs. Geiger and Mrs. Simmons.

A: Cox.

M: Mrs. Cox, I remember.

A: The principal.

M: Yeah, I remember --

A: He was a tall man. And so do you remember the art teacher, Carpenter?

M: No. He wasn't there when I was there, no. I'm there in the '40s.

A: These people probably retired.

M: Retired. I was there in 1945, '46.

A: [Mendot]? Do you remember Mendot?

M: No, Father.

A: She went there in 1902. She went there in 1902. She started teaching there, Latin.

M: Right. That was a beautiful school, Robert Treat, in those days.

A: Huh?

M: It was a nice school. It was a very good school.

A: That school collapsed now. Portions of that school collapsed.

M: Mostly Newark school systems --

A: Yeah, those school systems -- well, wherever those (inaudible) --

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

M: Back to High Street. Were there a lot of Jews in this area today? They've got a synagogue down there, didn't they?

A: The Jews disappear.

M: They disappear. They brought the blacks, and the blacks tumble the Jews; they left --

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

A: That's a wandering race; the Jews are a wandering race.

M: They haven't stopped.

A: No. They go all over. So --

M: So we're going to wind it up, Father. We're going to wind it up, and it's been most enjoyable --

A: Do you remember Simmons?

M: Miss Simmons and Mrs. Geiger. I didn't know -- I forgot Mrs. Geiger owned Dr. Antonio's building.

A: You know why Mrs. Simmons -- because she said, when I came to Robert Treat, I was the youngest teacher, the youngest of the group of teachers. She went there in 1919, and she still was teaching there.

M: She must have taught there about 60 years. (inaudible) Mabel Simmons.

A: Yeah. I saw her lately, in the building. Of course I saw her name there, so I said, that's the auditorium teacher, so I'll go and see how she looks, because the time when I saw her, she looked like Betty Boop. She looked like Betty Boop. I said now I want to see how she --

M: We're going to wind this up. This is Father -- being interviewed, Father Peter Kostakos, and it's -- today's date is June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1999. We'll continue.

Q: (inaudible) when we write it, you'll get one.

M: You'll get it. You're going to get it, Father.

(break in audio)

Q: -- the story of when they fought in the royal --

(break in audio)

M: He's saying a lot of things, like Mrs. Geiger owned that building, and I knew it was in back but I forgot, but I remember, she owned that building, and she used to collect rent from Antonio's and also the pharmacy. That's it.

Q: And they were friends with -- the Greek Italians.

M: The Greek Italian area. Well, that's the same thing was (inaudible) said. My best friends were Italian. Well, it was the third ward and then the first ward. The Greeks were here and the Italians. One side of Academy Street -- this is being recorded -- one side of Academy Street was Greek, and the other side of the Academy Street was Italian. So it was a lot of social clubs that they --

Q: And the Italians owned most of the buildings.

M: Owned most of the buildings, like Father Peter was saying.

(break in audio)

Q: When did -- even with the old church, they had Sunday school? Our church, here in this church, or was it the other church on Academy Street? Did they have Sunday school there? In other words, St. Nicholas was the first church in the United States under Archbishop Alexander to start a

Sunday school?

A: That's a broad statement.

Q: Well, I thought that's what you said.

A: Yeah, it's a broad statement. As far as I know.

Q: But the -- did you know General [Giavelli]?

A: I had heard of the name.

Q: Oh, you didn't know him.

A: No, I've never met him. Because they were up in years.

Right now, the [Gellis] family, the Gellis family, she knew Joanne Gellis, knew my people before I was born.

M: We're going to see Joanne next week.

A: So Joanne Gellis knew my people before I was born. So Joanne now has hit 90.

M: She's 90 years of age, you're right. She's about 90. She's 90, and Florence, I think, is 92.

A: Yeah, she hit 90 now.

M: Yeah. You're right, Father.

Q: That's why nobody wants to (inaudible) the ages.

M: She told me.

A: The thing is, her father and mother were married in 1905.

M: Uncle Tom. Her father, Tom, was my father's first cousin.

A: Oh, yeah?

M: Tom Gellis, my father, Sam [Arkos], first cousins.

A: When I went for my honeymoon, we went to Canada to Quebec. And we met -- there, we met Gellis. He was outside working at a store there. And so my wife said, (Greek), so I said, what is he doing up here, (Greek). So he was working there in that store. There was a fruit store or something, so he was working there. And so he said (Greek), so I said we're spending our honeymoon here in Canada, in Montreal and Quebec. So we went to those two cities, and then we met [Delagari] there. So Delagari was married in 1905. So Joanne comes after (inaudible) --

Q: Florence.

M: Florence, his sister.

A: What's her name?

M: Florence.

A: Oh, yeah, that's right, Florence.

M: There's Jim, Gus, Florence, and Joanne, but we knew her as Jenny.

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

M: There's George too, right. George is the youngest, I think.

A: Joanne comes after Florence, huh?

M: Yeah. Florence is 92.

A: Because Joanne was in Central High at the time I was going there. So I went there in 1937, and I found her there, in the office. He was working in the office, and then she took the stenography and typing, she was teaching stenography and typing, Joanne.

M: So she went to Barringer. Then she taught at Barringer High School.

A: Huh?

M: Then she went to Barringer, Barringer High School.

A: Yeah, she taught at Barringer, yes. So the thing is that she goes back, before I was born. I was born May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1920. So 1920, she started school in 1917, '16, started at that time. And so the thing is that -- well, the family, she has a brother, a young brother that was born in 1915. So in 1915, he was born with [Rahachi], (inaudible). So they're all in the old class, you see. So that's before Spidivaki came.

M: Right.

A: Spidivaki came in 1918, so these are kids before Spidivaki's time.

M: They were on Academy Street. That's when St. Nicholas was



on Academy Street.

A: On Academy Street, yeah. Because the Greek church we had was just a few doors down, 146 Academy Street. So a few doors down. So it was a small building. And they had three children they had schooled down there. They had Greek school down there, because the Passaic group that I went, that church up there in Passaic, they remember that church down on Academy Street. Because before they started church up there, they used to attend the church here. That church began back in 1921. So before '21, Spidivaki used to serve them, for their religious needs. He used to go up there, he used to go up in Passaic, Adderson, Jersey City, because all those places were founded after, you see.

M: Oh, I never knew that.

Q: So that's why this is the mother church of New Jersey.

A: They didn't have any churches, like down in Trenton, they didn't have any church. The (inaudible) church was in operation, New Brunswick church was in operation, you see. But below those cities, the churches were founded after. Atlantic City, [Wildwood], all of those churches, after (inaudible). The [Passenboy] church was, oh, 1913; New Brunswick church, 1916. Even Patterson and all of these churches up here now, they were all served by Newark.

M: Newark.

A: The Newark church. Well, the Newark church was the oldest of all the churches of the state.

M: Well, as you said, the mother church was always St. Nicholas.

A: That's why they call it the mother church.

M: The mother church.

A: And it's listed as one of the oldest churches of the country, because -- now, the first is the cathedral, the New York cathedral out in New York. Only the oldest one is New Orleans. That goes back to 1866, that church. 1865, right after the Civil War. That's the oldest one, in New Orleans. And I had a grandfather, a priest down there in New Orleans. I had met him in the convention. So I said to him -- [Delaqua], his name was Delaqua -- so I said to him -- so he finally located me at the convention, I went back in 1942. So I went to that --

Q: He was your grandfather?

A: Huh?

Q: He was your grandfather?

A: Yeah, one of the relatives, relations. So I said to -- we met in the convention in Philadelphia in 1942. So he said,

(Greek). I said -- I know of my grandfather in Newark, but I don't know you. So he said (Greek), a relationship. Then he started telling me about my people. So I went back and I told my grandmother, (Greek) --

Q: (inaudible) (laughter)

A: So I said (Greek), I said you're tearing the person apart. (Greek), you don't know nothing.

Q: And he was the priest in Newark?

A: I said the man (inaudible) and everything, he's a priest, I said to her. (Greek). I said, well, the man (inaudible), and then he went to the theological school.

Q: Your grandmother --

A: So the thing is (inaudible) --

M: Father, let me ask you, during the early years in Newark, the population of Greece -- how many Greeks were there actually living in the Newark area?

A: In here?

M: Yeah. In Newark, approximately.

A: About 15,000 Greek people.

M: About 15,000. There were that many.

A: That's why they were able to put a church, and the first Greek church in this area, because all the Greek people were

around here in this state. This was a densely populated area. A densely populated area. So we had this church as the oldest here, before the turn of the century.

M: We (inaudible) approximately 15,000.

A: We were moving the church from one area to another around here, you see. The first real church was back in 1907. That's when they built (inaudible). Before, they used to rent rooms, and traveling around. They used to have the church activities in different rooms. 1904 was the first priest here, [Halamakos]. Halamakos was the first priest here. And then there was a traveling priest before 1900. That's when [Galanopoulis] -- the Galanopoulis family was an old family, he came here in Newark in 1900. 1900, he came here.

M: Is that George Galanopoulis' father? And Helen Galanapoulis? That's her father too?

A: Galanopoulis, yes.

M: They lived on Nelson Place? I think they lived on Nelson Place.

A: Galanopoulis, yeah. He has sons around here. He used to be down at the [Demussy] store. Any time that Demussy used to leave, he used to place, in his place, Galanopoulis. And then the other paper man that came after Demussy here --

Q: I can't remember -- I'll find out his name.

A: Yeah, he was a very learned man, too.

M: Now, Father, High Street was a beautiful street in those years. High Street, this street, High Street, where St. Nicholas is, it used to be a beautiful street.

A: All Greeks here.

M: All Greeks on High Street?

A: On High Street, yeah. Down here, [Mikileni], there was Mikileni. They had three sisters, Mikileni, three sisters. And then Mary, the daughter, and her brother, they used to go to Greek school.

Q: [Mareika].

A: Mary, Mareika.

Q: Mareika. And her brother who is a doctor. Dr. Mikileni. He used to run --

A: And then the [Cornelia] family.

Q: The Cornelia family, right.

M: That's Steve's --

A: I have heard that Mary, Mary passed away.

Q: Mary who?

A: Mary Cornelia passed away.

Q: Oh, yeah. Mary [Agalius].

A: Huh?

Q: Mary Agalius died. She was Agalius. Mary Cornelia became Agalius.

A: She was married to (inaudible).

Q: Yeah, right.

M: Joey's (inaudible) -- that's Steve's sister. Where is Steve?

Q: Steve is in Louisiana.

M: In Louisiana?

A: She was married to Agalius. I met him in a lunch next door, I met those two. So I had something (inaudible) --

M: Father, what about -- excuse me, Father Peter, [Winnin] Street used to be the Ukrainian hall, do you remember the Ukrainian hall?

A: The Ukrainian --

M: What did they have there? They used to have --

A: They used to have activities, different church affairs there.

M: At the Ukrainian hall at Winnin Street. That's where the reception was of Anthony or Tony [Liberakis].

**End of Audio File: Rev Peter Kostakos.mp3**

Q: Where did your family come from in Greece, Father Pete?

A: My grandfather, grandmother, and my father came from  
[Siderokoster].

Q: Where's that?

A: Laconia.

Q: Laconia. OK. What year did they come?

A: My grandfather came in 1910, and my grandmother came in  
1911, together with my father. He was about eight and a  
half.

Q: Why did they come to the United States?

A: For better type of living.

Q: Like everyone else, right?

A: Yes. Better types of living.

Q: Where did they enter in the United States? When they came  
to the United States, where did they live?

A: At first, they lived on Lock Street.

Q: In Newark?

A: In Newark.

Q: When they first came, when your grandfather first came,  
where did he come in? Did he come to Ellis Island? Did he

come to New York?

A: He came from Ellis Island.

Q: And directly to Newark?

A: Yeah. He came and lived here in Newark, 1910 he came. And then my grandmother came 1911 with my father.

Q: And they lived on Lock Street?

A: They lived on Lock Street first, and then they moved on 229 Academy Street, where I was born.

Q: Where you were born.

A: I was born there, on Academy Street.

Q: How did your father meet your mother?

A: Through matchmaking, in Bedford, Massachusetts.

Q: What was he doing in Bedford, Massachusetts?

A: The bride was in Bedford, Massachusetts. And my grandmother brought him up there, and married them.

Q: How did she know the bride?

A: She was introduced by her people to [Brakachi], that was the maiden name.

Q: Your mother's maiden name.

A: And they were married in 1918, they were married. My father at that time was 16 years old.



Q: When he got married?

A: When he got married, he was 16 years old. And then in 1920, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 1920, he passed away at the age of 18, he passed away.

Q: And when were you born, Father?

A: I was born May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1920. May 8<sup>th</sup> -- (inaudible) 1884.

Q: OK. And your father died the same year?

A: My father died the same year, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 1920, he died. And [Spidivaki] performed the funeral service.

Q: Here at St. Nicholas?

A: Yeah. Down on 146 Academy Street. That was the church where they were before they came here.

Q: What did your grandfather do when he came here? What work did he have?

A: Well, he was a laborer in the leather business. And he was working there, and later he got into the push-cars that they had at that time. They weren't educated people. No education whatsoever.

Q: And your father? What did your father do when he first came to the United States?

A: My father was in the tailor business. He was in the tailor business, but he died at the age of 18.

Q: Did he have a tailor shop in Newark?

A: No. At first, he worked in the shoe business, (inaudible). George [Arjuris]. At that time, they used to take all these immigrants there, and they were all working in this place.

Q: Where was this place?

A: On Market Street.

Q: On Market Street? He had a shoe business?

A: Yeah.

Q: Making shoes, is that what it was? Or selling shoes?

A: Repairing shoes.

Q: Oh, repairing shoes.

A: Yeah, repairing shoes.

Q: All right. And then your father went into the tailor business?

A: Right, the tailor business.

Q: Not in Newark. Where did he --

A: In Newark?

Q: Oh, in Newark? Where? Did he have a shop?

A: Oh, I don't know where.

Q: He had a shop in Newark?

A: Yes. Because he died young.

Q: Right. And your mother came from Bedford. Where did your mother --

A: My mother? She came from Bedford, Massachusetts.

Q: Where was her family from? Laconia?

A: Her family -- from Laconia, yeah. Laconia. Well, my mother's family. (inaudible)

Q: Where was that?

A: That's in Laconia. They all came from around there.

Q: All right. How old was your mother when she married your father?

A: Well, she was about a year older than him.

Q: OK. So she was about 17?

A: Yes. They were both --

Q: What did your mother do after your father died?

A: Oh, she got a job in [Weight and Bonds] cigar factory. From 1922 to 1947, when the factory closed.

Q: And where was that factory?

A: The factory was on [Wickliff] Street. The corner of Wickliff Street, where Warren Street School. So they used to live on Academy Street, it was walking distance. Then from there, the factory moved down on [Shipman] Street down

here in Newark. The factory moved. And then in 1947, it closed, and they moved -- Weight and Bond moved to Pennsylvania. But my mother didn't pursue it, the moving.

Q: Who did your mother live with? You and --

A: Lived with her in-laws. They had to carry the tradition. Because Father [Spidivaki] was a matchmaker to marry her off, but my grandmother told him to mind his own business.

Q: Oh, he wanted to marry her off to somebody else?

A: Yes. So Spidivaki says it's a crime for a young woman to be a widow at that age.

Q: He was right.

A: So my grandmother told him to mind his own business. That's person, (inaudible) Spidivaki, that's personal, and you mind your church. And I do my own business.

Q: And your grand--

A: She was a domineering woman.

Q: Your grandmother.

A: Yeah. Because your mother said that -- (Greek)

Q: My father --

A: Your father (Greek)

Q: My poor mother.

A: (Greek). From Howard Street, he used to live on Howard Street, [Liberakos]. So he found Nick Lambrose.

Q: For my mother.

A: Yeah. For your mother. And my grandmother, (Greek).

Q: How about (Greek)

A: (Greek) Well, they were all related --

Q: Well, Mama and John --

A: Through my grandfather.

Q: They're all first cousins. Mama with John and Peter, and Aunt Katherine -- they were first cousins.

A: They're all (Greek).

Q: I know Mama was (Greek).

A: So they're all -- their relationship goes way back.

Q: Well, Mama's father and Uncle John's father were brothers.

A: We're talking about 100 years past.

Q: No, I'm not. Uncle John's still alive.

A: Huh?

Q: Uncle John is still alive. So is Aunt Catherine.

A: He's still alive, yeah. He's 88 now.

Q: All right. Now, tell me, what schools did you go to in Newark?

A: 1926, I started Warren Street School. Then after Warren Street School, went to Central Avenue. And then from Central Avenue, Robert [Treat]. Then from Robert Treat, Central High. From Central High to the theological seminary, where I met Aloupis. I met him there.

Q: Right. You were roommates, weren't you?

A: Yeah, we were roommates. Yeah. From '39 to '44, we were roommates.

Q: What did your grandfather and grandmother, how did they support -- well, your mother worked, right? And she lived with your in-laws? When did your grandfather die?

A: When? Oh, he died April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1940, he died.

Q: And your grandmother?

A: My grandmother died the 28<sup>th</sup> of December in 1950, she died. She outlived my grandfather. And then my mother outlived them all. She passed away the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October in 1983.

Q: 1983.

A: 1983. And my wife, she died April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1988.

Q: How did you meet your wife? How did you meet Tina?

A: How did I meet her? Matchmaking.

Q: Again.

A: Matchmaking. The matchmaker used to live in Newark. That's

the [Adonaka], Flora, Flora Adonaka.

Q: She was the matchmaker?

A: She was the matchmaker, yes. And Holy Tuesday, my grandmother said, (Greek). I said, well, after church services, (inaudible) we have to come home, tired out. I said no, no. (Greek)

Q: You had no idea?

A: No.

Q: How old were you?

A: Well, I was, at that time, in my 20s. 23. And then she said that -- and then my aunt, Tina's aunt, had the same story for her. (Greek)

Q: (laughter)

A: (inaudible) that was the Thomas Restaurant on Plain Street. So that was her uncle that had the Thomas Restaurant on Plain Street.

Q: And Tina lived in Newark, too?

A: Tina lived in Newark with her aunt, on Baldwin Street, 87 Baldwin Street, down here. So, and Tina said, well, (Greek). So that's where I met my wife. I had seen her before, 1942, before I had seen her with her aunt. And my mother, I went with my mother there to Flora. So the thing

is that -- they came that evening, (Greek), came to see Flora, and then Flora said (Greek), Tina, my grandmother pushing the chair closer so she could eye her. (Greek) So sizing Tina. So Tina said, "What is Grandma doing? She was pushing my chair back." "Well," I said, "she was sizing you up." So the thing is that my grandmother -- then finally, they gave words, and then [Andonako], John Andonako, he was the -- it was sent by his wife down to get the news of the --

Q: The engagement?

A: The word.

Q: Oh, the word.

A: Yeah, we gave word, (Greek). So then Father Spidivaki, he blessed the engagement, at 87 Baldwin, he came there and blessed the engagement there. And so then arrangements were made a year later for the wedding.

Q: Did you two go out alone at all? Did you two date at all, between the word and the wedding?

A: They didn't believe in dating. (laughter) (Greek) So the thing is that we had the wedding here in St. Nicholas Church on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 1944. There were 200 families at the reception. So the reception was done at the Hotel Douglas.

Q: Where I think George's baptism was at the Douglas?



A: What was that?

Q: George's baptism, where was that?

A: That was in '44 --

Q: Yeah, I know, but --

A: That year, I think in September, your brother's baptism, around September.

Q: So you got married?

A: Yeah, we got married August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Q: And when did you finish the theological school?

A: The theological school was finished in June.

Q: Oh.

A: Theological, in June. So we had the wedding.

Q: And then you were ordained --

A: With -- the ordination came after, in 1951.

Q: How come?

A: (inaudible) the ordination. The former deacon of St. Nicholas Church. He performed the ordination.

Q: Wasn't he an --

A: I was ordained in -- when was it? -- that was August -- it was in '51, I was ordained. First I was ordained May 6<sup>th</sup>, I was ordained as a deacon.

Q: As a deacon, right.

A: By the archbishop, Michael, the one that passed away. Yeah, that was -- yeah, May 6<sup>th</sup>. And May 20, two weeks later, I was ordained by (inaudible).

Q: [Gionati] became an archbishop? Where?

A: Yeah, because Gionati was a bishop in '51 -- well, he was ordained a bishop around September of '50.

Q: And he was a deacon here, right?

A: In '50, I was ordained -- no, he was ordained in '50, September, and I was ordained in May of '51, the following year, I was ordained a deacon by Michael in Passaic.

Q: Oh, in Passaic?

A: In Passaic, I was ordained in the church that I served for 13 years. And then -- because Gionati ordained me in Astoria as a priest, in his church there. He was a priest there for about five years. Then he became a bishop.

Q: Now, you have a son, right, Father? You have a son?

A: A son, yeah. I have my son, yeah. He's married. He has two daughters and two sons.

Q: When was he born?

A: He was born July 3<sup>rd</sup>. July 3<sup>rd</sup> he was born, yes. And then -- well, he's now about 42 years old.

Q: Where was he born, Father?

A: He was born in Newark.

Q: He was born in Newark. Where did you live in Newark, with Tina? You lived with your grandmother?

A: Yeah, with my grandmother, yeah. My grandma passed away -- she passed away --

Q: No, I know. But you and Tina, you lived with her? Or with your mother?

A: Lived with all of us. We lived together as a family, until the women passed away. I was a survivor. (laughter) And Tina said, well, it's too bad I'm leaving you behind, but don't take me with you.

Q: You said.

A: I said to her, yeah. So she passed away. She passed away now, in 1988 she passed away.

Q: Her life could not have been easy, living with your grandmother and your mother, right?

A: Hmm?

Q: Tina's life could not have been easy, living with your mother and grandmother?

A: Well, she was told the contract (inaudible), take it or leave it. So she had a grandmother also, her mother's

mother. And they all lived together. Now, the two grandmothers, they wanted us, so I said to Tina, well, your grandmother has grandchildren and great-grandchildren; my grandmother has us. So we have to give them some priority too. So she said all right. She was accustomed to live with the old people. Not -- the girls today, they won't live that life.

Q: No, Father. (laughter)

A: (inaudible)

Q: No.

A: And they won't live with their mothers, too. Their mothers and their grandmothers, they won't live. But you see, I had my grandmother and my mother and I had my wife. And then in my home, I had my mother-in-law living, and I had my sister-in-law living with her family. That's five women there. Plus my daughter-in-law with her children.

Q: Oh, my goodness. All of them lived in the same house?

A: All of them in the same house. But one by one passed away, bringing the figure down. That was bringing the figure down.

M: Making it manageable.

A: Finally, my daughter-in-law is living with her family. But

she has her own place where she lives. They mentioned that they wanted me to live with them, but, no, I said I have my own place to live, and I want you to have your privacy.

Q: Good for you, Father. You had enough all those years.

A: I have my privacy and you have your privacy.

Q: All this time you lived in Newark?

A: Yeah. I lived in Newark, yes.

Q: Didn't you live in Irvington?

A: Yeah, I lived in Irvington. We had a home there. And then the parkway went through there, and then we moved to Bloomfield. And then -- well, my grandmother passed away in Irvington, and the other two passed away in Bloomfield.

Q: And then you moved back in here?

A: My mother and my wife passed away in Bloomfield. And I had the other -- the rest of the family together with me, my mother-in-law, my sister-in-law, families and all that. And my daughter with her family in Bloomfield.

Q: Your daughter-in-law, right? Your son's daughter -- your son's wife?

A: Yes. They all lived in my home in Bloomfield. But we had an eleven room house there, we could place them in there, you see. But after they went into their own homes, they

left.

Q: Can we stop one minute so that we can turn this tape over?  
Let's just turn it over.

M: We have time.

Q: We do? What did you want (inaudible)?

M: The Greeks in Newark at that time.

Q: Were there many Greeks who lived around in your  
neighborhood, in Newark? When you were growing up?

A: On Academy Street, families here. The [Metsopolis] across  
the street, [Palolakis] across the street. And then  
[Mannises] across the street, with [Palangias], with Bertha  
[Palangias] and [Panella]. So they were all families there.  
And then we had -- it was a mixed Italian neighborhood. We  
grew up with them, the Italians, and we went to school with  
them. The [Cacino] family, and the [Valensanos] family, all  
those families.

Q: Who were some of your good friends when you were growing up?  
When you were growing up in Newark?

A: Well, we had the Valensanos across the street from us, and  
we had the Cacinis across the street from us, the Metsopolis  
across the street.

Q: So you were with them all the time.

A: Yes.

Q: They had children your age?

A: Yes. They had -- my grandmother's brother was living next door, [Vasiva], if you knew him.

Q: No, I don't think so, Father. I didn't know him. And who was he? What did he do?

A: And then -- huh?

Q: What did he do?

A: Well, he was a troublemaker.

Q: (laughter) Every family had one, right?

A: He messed with the Italians. They had a feud with the chicken market here, with the Italians.

Q: And what happened?

A: Well, what happened is they came out with the knives, and he came out with big dogs. They had six big dogs. (Greek) So the thing is that -- so my grandfather said when you get messed up with (inaudible), (Greek). So the Italians got messed up with him.

Q: And --?

A: They couldn't put anything over with him.

Q: He had his dogs.

A: He had the big dogs, six of them, which came out with him, you see. So my grandmother, well, my grandmother, that was her brother. So my grandfather said, (Greek).

Q: So he fought with the Italians in the neighborhood?

A: Oh, many Italians, sure, on Academy Street there. Many Italians. And behind our backyard was the Morris Canal. The ferries used to come up from Hackettstown, and they were coming down with the ferries, down to -- then they drained the water out of there, that was in 1924, the water was drained out.

Q: Now, you -- how big was your house on Academy Street? Did you have an apartment, a house on Academy Street?

A: We lived on the second floor. The other two floors were Italians. Italians on the first floor and Italians on the third floor.

Q: Who owned the building?

A: An Italian family, Rocco, they owned the building. The Italian people were all in real estate, you see. They all owned homes there. And from Academy Street, we moved from there, we went up, 229 to 266 Academy Street. And then from 266, we went down to 382 High Street, on the corner there. And then after a year, we moved back to Academy Street, 248 Academy Street. And from there, we stayed there about ten



years. Then around 1944, we went to Irvington.

Q: Why did you move so many times?

A: Well, it's not a short distance (inaudible) --

**End of Audio File: Reverend Peter Kostakos 1+4 6-29**

M: Testing, one, two, three, testing.

Q: All right, Father. You were telling us about a priest being beaten up in Newark? Tell me.

A: You want to know?

Q: Yes, tell us about the priest.

A: That church was a long history.

Q: All right, tell us about it.

A: That goes back before 1900.

Q: Here in Newark?

A: In Newark, yeah.

Q: Go ahead. Tell us about it.

A: During [Sidivati's] time, going back, 1894, back 1894, the Greeks were all scattered. Finally, 1900, there was -- oh, I can't recall, there was -- Galanopoulis, 1900, he came here in 1900, Galanopoulis. And then 1905, he got married in St. Nicholas Church, 1905. And then the Gellis family, they got married in 1905. And the girls were born -- Salma

and Joanne. They were born after 1905. And then the fellas, there were three boys, I think.

Q: What happened to the priest who was beaten up?

A: Huh?

Q: What priest was beaten up in 1914?

A: By the [Manates].

Q: Oh, tell the story.

A: That's why Spidivaki was afraid of the Manates, because they came from the hillbilly area of Greece, (inaudible). So [Mani] got a name, a bad name, for not respecting the cloth. And --

Q: Who was the priest, Father?

A: I can't recall the name. It would come in my mind --

Q: But why did they beat him up?

A: Well, this priest was told to leave. He was undesirable. And they told him that it's time for you to leave. And so he said to them that I have a seven-year contract. And so they said, you know, where'd you put the contract? So the thing is that then the two [Coulamatis] and [Salakos] -- yeah, Salakos and Coulamatis were the two that fought that priest, you see. And then they got (inaudible), and they all went downhill, because there were others involved, and

(inaudible) show disrespect to the priest, (Greek). Your life, it comes downhill. So finally, they paid, those men that put hands on the priest, paid for it, you see. So they went, they told him to get his clergy robes and leave. So he said, yes, I'm going to take my clergy robes and leave. Then they went down to the old church on 146 Academy Street, the old church, and told him, go in, (inaudible), get your robes. So he got his robes, everything. Then he threw the (inaudible) over him to start the service, but they were irritated, one on one side, the other on the other side, grabbed him, and threw him on the floor. And the police said, you have to take them out from the altar, so we would take them from there on; we cannot come in the altar. We're not supposed to drag a priest from the altar.

Q: Of course not.

A: So then --

Q: Sanctuary.

A: These two men, Salakos and Coulamatis, the two of them took him out from the church, and the police took him away. But it left a bad name from the community, because headlines were plastered in the National Herald.

Q: The Greek paper.

A: Yeah, the Greek paper in New York, that a Manate (Greek) for

mistreating the priest. So the editor-in-chief,  
[Kalimakos], from the National Herald, wrote (Greek). So  
the Manate went to the National Herald and went, "We want  
you to retract your statements." So he said no, and said,  
"I'm telling you the truth," (Greek) --

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

A: So yeah, they gave him a beating. And the -- Kalimakos, he  
was the editor-in-chief of the National Herald. I met him  
in New York, (Greek). I said, (Greek). So, and I didn't go  
any further; I said, (Greek).

Q: You knew the story?

A: I didn't want to mention anything more about the Manates.

Q: You knew this story from your grandmother?

A: Oh, yeah. Well, I saw the writing in the book, too, on --  
that they mistreated the priest. Well, the Manate had it in  
for the priest, you see. So they wanted to get after  
Spidivaki. Assassinate him. And so my grandmother went  
down to the office on 146 Academy Street in the old Greek  
Church, and told the *pater*, because she had heard the whole  
conversation, and the assassination committee there, about  
the priest. So she slipped from the back door and went down  
to the church and told him, wrap your papers up, get  
(Greek). So the thing is that she spoiled the plan, so I

said to my grandmother, I said, "Why don't you mind your own business? What they ever want to do, you let them do it."

So she said (Greek); I said (Greek). They want a change of a priest, (inaudible) (Greek). So my grandfather said, (Greek). So the thing is that -- so I said to my grandmother that --

Q: How old were you when this happened?

A: How old? At that time?

Q: Yeah.

A: Well, I was 15 years old.

Q: Were you afraid of these Manates?

A: Huh?

Q: Were you afraid they might go after your grandmother?

A: Well, my grandmother -- they used to meet in their home, and make plans and everything in their home. And the Manates, yeah. But the thing is, I said to my grandmother, mind your own business. I said, "You do not know, you don't hear, you don't see, you don't say anything."

Q: This was like a Greek mafia?

A: So I said, "You don't say anything," I said. "You let them do the job. You don't see anything." So the thing is that the mafia (Greek), but I said, "You don't see anything. And

this way you're safe. You're safe."

Q: Let me ask you, you mentioned the name [Krisikos]?

A: Yeah, the lawyer. That lawyer, he was a very well-learned man. He used to speak in church. But he used to speak in the advanced very high Greek.

Q: (Greek)

A: (Greek) Adams used to say, (Greek)

Q: Now, where was he -- he was an attorney? He was a lawyer?

A: Yeah, he was a lawyer. I met him a day before my ordination in New York City.

Q: He was from New York.

A: He was in New York, so I ran into him. So I said to him, I said, "What a coincidence that we meet. You could advise me when I need an advice." "Oh," he said, "advice costs money. I don't give any advice without compensation," he said. So my grandmother said in church, (Greek). So I asked, I said, "My grandmother wanted some information." "Well, you tell your grandmother that when I open my books to search the law, (Greek), I have to be compensated."

Q: Did he live in Newark?

A: He lived in East Orange. So I had tenants in the building that mentioned to me that that man was flirting around with

someone. Flirting around with some woman there. And she was a tenant of mine in the building. And so the thing is that I said, "Well, I meet him once in awhile in East Orange." She said, "Yes, he wanted to marry me." She was one of the sisters, very refined woman, in the building, you see. So, well, [Krisikos] was married to [Exania]. So when I told my grandmother, you have to come upfront with money, (inaudible). (laughter) So my grandmother was very vulgar. So I said to her, "Yeah," I said, "yeah, yeah. (Greek), a very refined woman and everything." But when (inaudible) said to your grandmother there, said, (Greek)

Q: Oh, really?

A: So [Ilakarakena] said, (Greek). So Ilakarakena said, (Greek).

Q: He wouldn't (inaudible)?

A: So that was Charlie was going to be operated, appendicitis. And so she was trying to find [Papa Nicolachi] from St. Demetrius Church, but he went out on a call. So Father Spidivaki took a bath, and he couldn't leave his quarters. He was very conservative, Spidivaki. He would watch his health very closely, you see. But he lived to about 92 years old when he passed away.

Q: Yeah, I remember. Let me ask some more questions.

A: Did you cover all?

Q: No. OK, you gave me some recollections of life in Newark.

Did anyone help your family when they first came to Newark?

Did any Greeks help them? Did any Italians help them in any way?

A: They worked hard for a living.

Q: But did they have any help when they first arrived, not speaking the language or anything?

A: No.

Q: No. Did your life center around the Greek-American community, the Greek community? As you were growing up, did your life center around the Greek community?

A: Yeah. We always lived in a Greek environment. Always. And we were close with the church, you see.

Q: So you were members of St. Nicholas.

A: St. Nicholas Church. My grandfather came since 1910. Let's see. And my grandmother, 1911, the following year with my father. They came to church. The church was their life, yeah. St. Nicholas Church, yeah. And when the split came, and the St. Demetrius Church started, my people remained with St. Nicholas Church. The split came with differences. Church differences. Because, well, Father Spidivaki wanted



law and order, the other, the radicals, didn't believe in law and order. The women used to come in with carriages in the church, you see, and breastfeeding children and everything. So they knew the life in Greece, but Spidivaki wanted to Americanize them. So you could Americanize these people, so the split came. It was inevitable for the split to come, so it started back in 1925, the split. So the two churches split up. And then again another split came in the '30s. 1934, [Ganourius] came up, the church. And then another split with another church on -- down in Plain Street. That church closed. [Anargiri]. So there were four churches at one time. But the three of them survived, and the one closed. But the third one remained here, 98 Springfield Avenue, and then moved to West Market Street, [Senapapusiziko] shoe repair store. The [Palmiris] have that there. So from there, they went up to Orange, and from Orange down to Elizabeth, and moved in several, several places, you see. But finally, the church in St. [Panurius] remained in Elizabeth down there, so that church is still in operation. But my people continued to remain. My grandfather was buried here in Newark, my grandmother's buried here. And my mother --

Q: Which cemetery? Woodland?

A: Huh?

Q: Which cemetery?

A: The cemetery -- well, my father and mother, buried in Woodland Cemetery. My grandmother and grandmother in Woodland cemetery. Tina was buried down in Fairlawn, down in Westfield.

Q: All right, question. Did you belong to any Greek organizations or American organizations?

A: No. I had for awhile in the AHEPA, but I dropped out, you see. I couldn't keep up activities with the AHEPA. And furthermore, when you come of age, you just stay in isolation. Because then you have transportation matter and all that, makes it hard. When you don't drive, and you're keeping on buses and everything, I just refrained, only wherever it's needed.

Q: Before you became a priest, what did you do? Before you were ordained?

A: Before I was ordained, I worked for Fidelity Bank. I worked there until I was called in the priesthood.

Q: What did you do in the bank?

A: Oh, I worked in the bookkeeping department. Operated a bookkeeping machine. It was a different bookkeeping -- with

the different business machines. And then when I was called around our nation time, in '51, I went into ordination. I didn't want to be part of the clergy line immediately, like Father Aloupis. Father Aloupis was ordained right away, you see. So I know his father, mother, brother, the family, I knew that they used to come up and visit them in the seminary. My grandmother used to come up, she was brought up to the seminary, she saw the bishop there. They'd both eye each other, you see. But I said to her, "He's not available, Grandma." (laughter)

Q: Did you serve in the Armed Forces at all? Were you in the Army?

A: No. The Armed Forces, no. I went to the Bloomfield College and Seminary; I kept on with my --

Q: Oh, with your studies.

A: Yeah. Theological studies.

Q: Do you remember anything about the Greek war relief effort?

A: The Greek --

Q: War relief?

A: Well, it was run by Adams. He was the figurehead, Adams. And [great donor] with the relief. He gave them financial and moral help.

Q: Did you remember Peter [Adams]?

A: Yeah, I remember his father, (inaudible).

M: Do you remember with Mr. Adams that -- I remember there was a special dance, and they had the Andrews Sisters performing with Harry James, and it was for the Greek war relief. Do you remember that? I think it was helped at the [Mosque] Theater? This was in 1943, '44, around that time? It was Harry James, the band leader, and the Andrews Sisters were singing. And the money derived from that dance was towards the Greek war relief. Do you recall that at all?

A: I don't recall it, no. I heard of them.

M: (inaudible), the special affair that they had?

A: No.

M: OK.

Q: Do you remember any other stories about the Greek community?

A: The cafenios.

Q: Where were the cafenia? Do you remember any of the cafenia?

A: On the corner of Plain Street and Market Street was the [Cronion], the cafenio on top was the Cronion. Further down from there was a Thomas Restaurant, where Tina's uncle used to have the store. And then on the left side was the bookstore, [Vermusi]. Vermusi. I went to school with his

son [Vaso] in Central High School, we graduated together with Vaso Vermusi. Then he had an older brother, Vaso had an older brother, and his mother was a teacher also. She was a teacher.

Q: A Greek school teacher?

A: A Greek school teacher. But she was giving private lessons, because in St. Nicholas Church, Spidivaki now was a figurehead. No one could budge in, in the church. They had a monopoly. (laughter) They couldn't come in. And so anyone that tried to come in only lasted a year. Not more than a year. And then -- well, it's a long story.

M: How about the cafenio? On Academy Street, was there a cafenio on Academy Street? Any Greek cafenio?

A: The cafenio -- well, there was one on Warren Street.

M: Warren Street.

A: Warren Street. That's where [Dinako] used to live, Peter Dinako and his wife. And then Minnie, his daughter.

M: What was the name of the cafenio? (inaudible), what was it called? Do you remember the name?

A: The cafenio was owned by the [Busakeris] family. They owned the building, [Kanaso], he used to live over on Sussex Avenue, and she used to go over and collect rent. And once

she was held up, and her purse was snatched. Because, you see, they had the old method to do business themselves. You can't do business yourself; those are dangerous things, when you're dealing with money. So she had a big (inaudible), so snatched it.

M: How about the Greek organizations? Like the [Laconics], the [Spatiakis]? Did they have their own clubs, any clubs that they had?

M2: Do you know, I felt a strong (inaudible). So I followed that (inaudible) and it brought me into -- no, please continue, I will not disturb you. I have calls to make. You're doing fine.

A: We need young blood for the church. We need young blood. If we don't get the young blood in here, we're through. We'll die. It's good to hold us on. We're just the showpiece. But you need young blood. If you don't have the young blood, forget it. The old-timers said -- we hold on and we hold on; how much longer you're going to hold on? You're going to go, regardless, you're going to go.

M: Where do you see your church going today? What's your thoughts about our church? Where is it heading, which direction, our Greek Orthodox church?

A: The thing is that -- you see, like the Archbishop, I

remember that he was brought here in St. Nicholas Church in 1939 in May. And I was the first student that he met here in the church, St. Nicholas Church. And then I had to bring them --

(break in audio)

A: So [Yakova], my future teacher, said, "So many years ago, the [Viksevis], (Greek)." So how would I know to go see (inaudible) when I had the apron string, my grandmother? He couldn't budge; we couldn't go anywhere without tagging along your parents.

M: Father, let me ask you a question, Father Peter. To get back to Newark, we want to get a good knowledge of the environment of Newark. How were the Greeks, what type of lifestyle did they have in Newark, what did they do? What was the neighborhoods like? I remember -- I mean, I'm much younger than you, but I remember, for example, on Sunday, walking down West Market Street, I could hear Greek music, the radio being played. Give us your thoughts on what it was like living in Newark --

A: We didn't go any further away from this environment. We were all in this environment, and we stayed here. We didn't go further out, you see. So we stayed here, and we grew up with the city, and we grew up with the people, all of that.

M: How about grocery stores? Neighborhood grocery stores?  
Were they all Greek at that time?

A: The Greeks. The businesses and everything. The Greek life.

M: The Greek life.

A: And -- well, I stuck in the city here, my hometown. Others moved out. They moved out, and they went to different areas. Well, a time came when I visited 15 states, with the missionary work for the Archdiocese. So I went to one church up in New England states, I went up to [Keane], New Hampshire, I went into Burlington, Vermont. I went to Danbury, Connecticut. Then I went down to New York State, to the Albany church. I went to the Pennsylvania church, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Then down to New Jersey, I went down to New Brunswick. I said the church down there, Highland Park, (inaudible). And you -- there, they had a dinner in New Brunswick for the new priest, myself, I went down to serve them. So I asked my predecessor, I said, "How long did you remain here?" He said, "Six months."

Q: For six months.

A: He said, "I was the 48<sup>th</sup> priest here." I said, "Well, I will be the 49<sup>th</sup> then." Because the thing is that -- I stayed there, and when I saw conditions there, people with ice creams walking into the church, and people running



around and making it like Grand Central Station, the church, I decided that I have to make a move. So then I spoke, from the altar, I said, "You must get yourselves organized, and you must respect the place you worship." The president of the church took me to his home, and every Sunday he used to take me to his home for dinner. So then that Sunday that I spoke to the congregation, because I came to an organized church, St. Nicholas Church; that church was disorganized. So I told them to better themselves. The president said to me, "If you want to remain here, you cannot speak that way." I said, "Next Sunday, you come to church, and you'll hear what I have to say." Well, the following Sunday, I said to the congregation that I'm a temporary priest now here, waiting for my successor to come.

M: The 49<sup>th</sup> --

Q: The 50<sup>th</sup>.

A: So I (inaudible) --

M: The 50<sup>th</sup>'s coming; the 49<sup>th</sup>'s leaving.

A: And then they said, "Well, what's going on?" I said, "What's going on? You'll find out what's going on. I'm leaving, and my successor will bring law and order in here." Well, sure enough, [Gala] came, so as soon as Gala came, (inaudible). All the while, animals in the cage. Because

the thing is that that church, you could go out of your mind. I said, "I want to live, and I don't want to have to be brought in an insane asylum." So the thing is that, [Sipa], I have to move on. So I moved out of there.

M: How long were you in [Pyramis], though, Father? What year did you go to Pyramis?

Q: (inaudible) the Passaic?

M: The Passaic, I meant to say Passaic.

A: That was when I was ordained, 1951.

M: 1951.

A: That was my first parish.

M: In Passaic.

A: In New Brunswick. Well, actually, that church was in Highland Park.

M: Oh, Highland Park.

A: Highland Park, you see. Highland Park, the church, it was first started in New Brunswick, but then they went across the river to Highland Park. Highland Park was right on River Road. River Road, the church was there, a small church. And they had a membership of over 400 families.

M: That's by St. George.

A: Yeah, St. George --

M: Piscataway, that's --

A: Now it's in Piscataway.

M: That's Father Pappas', yeah.

A: Well, they moved, some of these years, they moved around. New Brunswick, Highland Park, Piscataway Township. They moved around. Now they have 800 families.

M: Yeah, they have a lot of families there, St. George.

A: Yeah, St. George. It's a big community.

M: Yeah. Father Anthony. Do you have any more questions, Kiki, for Father?

Q: I don't know. What's -- about the area, did you have any American friends, Father?

A: American friends?

Q: Yeah. He had (inaudible) --

A: I would say American friends, we meet the alumnis from Central High School, we meet every --

Q: Five years?

A: Five years, or ten years. There's an alumni meeting going on, the 60<sup>th</sup> year. 1939.

Q: So you go to these reunions.

A: Yes. I'm invited to go, give them the invocation.

Q: That's nice.

A: That meeting, you see. But otherwise, I had former classmates of mine, former schoolmates, you see. But they all drifted away.

Q: When you worked at the bank, did you get involved in any of the social activity?

A: Well, they had social activities, but I was -- with the Greek church, with the Greek element. I didn't have anything to do with the American element, you see. We were closely knitted with our people. And our people let us be drifted apart, we were together.

Q: So you -- name-day parties?

A: Name-day parties, you had birthday parties. And my grandmother, we were going to visit [Bacumbara], and we were going to visit that name-day, and take you around. They never let you out of their hands. They had -- I went to a Sweet 16 party, so a Sweet 16 party, my grandmother was told to stay in the kitchen. Stay in the kitchen with [Cumpara], my grandfather. My grandfather and my grandmother were told to stay in the kitchen. In the living room are the youth. The youth will be in the --

Q: Living room.

A: Living room. And there they had a bottle on the table, and

that, they have the spinning of a bottle.

Q: And you played spin the bottle? (laughter)

M: Spin the bottle.

A: Yeah, the spinning. And then they started, for the first time, to have the kissing party. So I ran out and I told my grandmother.

Q: Oh, you --

A: (Greek). Ah-h! (Greek) So my grandfather said, "Well, you forgot --"

Q: What it's like?

A: "-- what we went through, and it's their turn to go through." My grandfather said to my grandmother, "It's their turn now." So the thing is that my grandmother objected. So, well, narrowness, you see. Narrowness. Well, in that party, in that party was -- she had all nationalities, and that was -- [Dima], Helen Dima. That's -- her brother was Paul [Jannis].

M: Jannis, yeah.

A: Paul Jannis. So Paul Jannis now, the grandson is a lawyer.

Q: Oh, right. Yeah, and a mayor.

A: And a mayor, you see, the grandson. So, but his aunt was the one that was --

Q: Having the --

A: Helen was the one that brought that party. So my grandmother said, (Greek). So I said, "YaYa," I said, "did you hear what Grandpa said?"

Q: What did you do?

A: (Greek). Well, I couldn't make a move; I had to be with her. So my mother, my mother was a showpiece, she couldn't open her mouth.

Q: Oh, (inaudible)?

A: Yeah, (inaudible). So the figures that my grandmother and them up there, they made a good, perfect team together, you see. My grandmother said to him, he was beating a kid, so my grandmother said to him, (Greek). So, but now with his successor, Aloupis, well, it's night and day. Night and day. So Spidivakis, you couldn't budge, you see.

Q: I remember.

M: We remember. We went to Greek school, I remember.  
(laughter) My knuckles --

A: Yeah. And his wife, [Spidivakena]. Do you remember her?

Q: Oh, of course. I had her for a Greek school teacher. I had her in Greek school.

A: Oh, you went to Greek school? Yeah. Spidivakena, yeah.

She was a marvelous teacher. She knew her teaching, you see.

M: I used to love when she used to complain about being cold. (laughter) She'd put her coat on, and the priest, Father Spidivaki would come in, they'd argue about the furnace, back and forth.

A: She was a spitfire. She was --

Q: So you were a very good -- you never were rebellious. You never were rebellious. You didn't rebel against your grandmother.

M: You were a good --

A: Remarry?

Q: Rebel.

M: You were always very good. Growing up, you were always very good as a boy. You never got into trouble as you were growing up.

A: Well, we were taught to stay with our folks, with their line of thinking. And the thing is that prevented us from any trouble, because you know with your life, your young life, there's so many temptations.

M: Now, you went to Central High School, with Ted [Brevakis'] brother. Do you remember him playing football for Central

High School?

A: Central High School has a name, you see. Down in the lockers, many things were going on in the locker room.

M: Well, do you remember the Greek -- was it Lou --

Q: Louis Brevakis.

M: Louis Brevakis. Do you remember Louis Brevakis?

A: (inaudible)?

M: Brevakis. He played football for Central, and he died as a young man.

A: Well, now, Brevakis -- there were many Greek people before my time that attended Central High. Because Central High was founded in 1912.

M: What year was Louie Brevakis there? Louie was there -- I think he might have been --

Q: I gave you the (inaudible).

M: Yeah.

A: There's a George Brevakis.

M: George and his brother Teddy. This was their brother, Louis.

A: Yeah. Oh, Louie.

M: Louie. You remember him? Do you remember Louie?



A: Yeah, I remember Louie, yeah.

M: That's who we're talking about.

A: We used to pal around.

M: OK. And he was a good football player. He played -- this is his picture. This is Lou Brevakis. He played quarterback for Central High School football, and he died when he was only like 18, 19 years of age.

A: Oh, yeah. Sure.

M: Do you remember him playing football? He was a very good athlete? This is Ted and George's brother.

A: It goes back a long time. They used to live on Summit Place.

M: Right. Summit Place he lived, he said.

A: His mother, I remember his mother, [Brevakena]. I don't remember the father.

Q: He died, very young.

M: Yeah, he died -- he had an ice business, he used to deliver ice.

A: He died back in 1922.

M: Somewhere around there, right.

A: A long time, you see.

M: This was Louis.

A: Well, we would have had almost the same age. Almost the same age, because I'm heading for my 80<sup>th</sup> name-day now, you see. So, yes.

M: Do you remember when he died (inaudible)?

A: That's the third son.

M: Right. You're right.

A: This would be the third son of the -- George was the oldest one. George was the oldest. He was born in 1907, that's the oldest one.

M: Right, George. He worked for [Aroma] Coffee. He worked as a salesman.

A: We come close to each other ages, yes. But he -- we used to be kids together, and we were playing in the Summit Street yards. And we were small kids at that time. He was right on the car, driving around in the yards, (inaudible). So you've got a picture of him.

M: Yeah, Teddy gave it to us.

A: Teddy married the [Geranis] girl. Geranis -- I was classmates with her brother, John, in the seminary. But he was ordained and sent down to the Wheeling church, or I served down there, in Wheeling. Now, John passed away now,

John. That was their brother in law.

M: Right. That's Teddy's brother, right.

A: Yeah. Brother-in-law.

M: How about this picture?

A: (inaudible)

Q: This is the Brevakis family.

A: Oh, the Brevakis family. This is all the Brevakis family?

Q: Well, it says here, the John G. Brevakis and the Peter G. Brevakis family. And John Brevakis assumed the responsibility for both families after his brother Peter died in 1919. So these are all the Brevakises.

A: So many.

Q: Yeah. And their mother --

A: Where's the woman?

Q: She's not here. Just the father.

A: That's their father. (inaudible)

Q: I don't know where the mother is. Wait a minute. Sophie J. Brevakis, George Brevakis, Katherine Brevakis --

A: Hold on --

Q: Her father -- no, the mother is not there.

A: Huh?

Q: The mother is not there. These are two families. Do you remember --

A: (Greek)

Q: Do you remember this picture? This is George's baptism at the Sheraton Hotel? You're right here. Here's Tina -- is this your grandmother? Because this is your mother.

A: (Greek)

Q: (Greek) So another time when you see better, I'll show it to you.

A: (Greek), yeah. (Greek)

Q: That's George's baptism.

A: Yeah. Is this my grandmother?

Q: No. I think your grandmother -- here's your mother. Here's your mother; I think this is your grandmother.

A: Yeah, that's my grandmother, yeah. And that's Tina.

Q: No, this is Tina. That's Kostakos.

A: Huh?

Q: That's Kostakos.

A: Oh, yeah. Lula.

Q: Lula. And this is Tina, and this is you. Who's this?

A: Oh, yeah, yeah.

Q: Is that Kostakos also here?

A: Where does this appear at?

Q: George's baptism. December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1944, at the Sheraton Hotel.

A: Oh, Sheraton Hotel, yes. (inaudible)

Q: Where was the Sheraton Hotel?

A: That's the Hotel Douglas.

Q: No --

A: Yes, that's the Hotel Douglas, but it changed its name to Sheraton.

Q: Ah. And where was it located?

A: Changed its name to Sheraton. But when I got married --

Q: Denny (inaudible) --

A: When I got married, it was the -- I would pay you for -- I want you to make up one picture --

Q: A copy of this?

A: A copy, yeah.

Q: Sure.

A: And whatever it costs, I'll pay you.

Q: Oh, Father, stop. Don't be ridiculous.

A: Because I want this -- I don't know where I put mine. Where

I put mine, I don't know.

M: Which picture is that?

Q: George's baptism, because Father was there, his mother, his grandmother.

A: Because it has my grandmother there, my mother's there.

Q: Yeah. Right, exactly. Yeah, and Tina.

A: And the three of them went underground.

Q: So you said the Sheraton -- it was the Douglas Hotel first, and then it became the Sheraton?

A: Originally, when I got married there, it was Hotel Douglas.

Q: OK.

A: When I got married.

Q: What year did you get married?

A: I got married August 27<sup>th</sup> -- Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 1944.

Q: OK. And Demi's baptism --

A: Now, Aloupis got married September the 10<sup>th</sup>, 1944. Just two weeks later after us.

Q: So the Douglas became the Sheraton Hotel.

A: Yes.

Q: But where was it located in Newark?

A: From Douglas Hotel, it became Sheraton Hotel. Now it's a

nursing home in there.

Q: Where was it?

A: That became a nursing home there.

M: In [Military Park], around there.

Q: In Military Park?

A: Oh, yes. Down there. And I had a course there in real estate, in that building, up on some floor. Real estate, they were teaching. Goldstein, a Jew, was teaching it. Anything that's involved with money, leave it to the Jews.  
(laughter)

M: (laughter) He's right.

A: Anything involved with money, because my tenant in Irvington said, "If you can't make the dollar, you're no good."  
Applebaum. Applebaum said, "You have to know how to make the dollar, or else you're no good." She was a very sharp Jew woman. Did you go to Warren Street School?

M: I went to Robert Treat. I went to Robert Treat, kindergarten right up to the --

A: Oh, you went to Robert Treat.

M: Yeah, up to the ninth grade. Then I went to West Side High School.

A: Simmons, do you remember Simmons?

M: The music teacher.

A: Huh?

M: She was the music teacher.

A: She was the auditorium teacher.

M: Mabel. Mabel Simmons.

A: Yeah, Mabel.

M: Mabel Simmons, right. I remember her.

A: Do you remember her?

M: She used to play the piano and sing.

A: I saw her, I paid a visit -- I saw on the bulletin board her name only. No other teacher there; her name only. Simmons. So I went to see how she looks. And so when I was there in 1936, in Robert Treat, I remember her as Betty Boop.

M: Yeah, she looked like Betty Boop. Yeah, you're right.

A: Betty Boop.

M: She looked like Betty Boop, her face. Yeah, her face.

A: Yeah. Betty Boop, the same. And then now when I went in and saw her now, I said, "Mrs. Simmons -- Mrs. Simmons --" she had boots on. She had boots, she had a big hat.

M: What year did you see her? What year was this? What year?

A: Yeah, now. Now, I saw her.



M: Oh, now you saw her?

A: Now I saw her.

M: Oh, she's dead.

A: Yeah. I passed there and I saw her. That's before Robert Treat caved, because Robert Treat, from 1889 that it was built, finally it caved in.

M: How about Mrs. Geiger? Do you remember Mrs. Geiger?

A: Yes, she was --

M: My mother went there too.

A: She (inaudible), Dr. [Antonius's] pharmacy.

M: That's right. Mrs. Geiger owned Pappas' pharmacy.

A: Yeah, she -- that building.

M: That's right. I forgot all about that.

A: Yeah, she owned that.

M: You're so right, Father. Mrs. Geiger owned Dr. Antonius's building and Pappas' pharmacy, on West Market Street.

A: Yeah. She was born in 1881.

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

(break in audio)

M: Remember Dr. Antonius --

A: Dr. Antonius.

M: Yes.

A: Well, he started his profession back in 1924, he started his profession in '24, with the druggist there.

Q: (inaudible)?

A: Pappas?

Q: Papadopoulos?

A: Papadopoulos.

M: Papadopoulos.

A: Paladopoulos, yeah.

M: Right.

A: He started there, Papadopoulos. His wife, the druggist wife, she used to make different theatrical suits. And used to take part in plays.

M: Oh, is that right?

A: So, because in olden times, there was a fundraising project, get funds for the church. So they put different plays. The plays went fast then, you see. Today, it's a monotonous thing, the plays and all that. But at that time, there was a good fundraising project. [Papalio].

Q: Papalio, right.

A: She was the surgeon's wife, her husband was the surgeon, out

in Chicago. Papalio. And then they came here, I had her oldest daughter as a Sunday school teacher back in 1929. You weren't around.

Q: I don't think so, Father.

A: So, yeah --

Q: I wasn't even a glimmer. (laughter)

A: I had her as a teacher in 1929, Papalio. So we used to have Sunday school classes downstairs. There were 250 children at that time.

M: That's a lot.

A: It was jam-packed. They had in the hallway, a class. They had hallways, because they didn't have the room. We had in the big hall, we had -- I remember when I started Greek school, I started on the stage there. We had a teacher there on the stage, and she had students there. And then we had students in the back of that room. And the other two classrooms were taken by students, and we had classrooms out in the hall, because there were 250 students at that time.

**End of Audio File: Reverend Peter Kostakos 2+3**

**End - Reverend Peter Kostakos**